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Kingdom
Come

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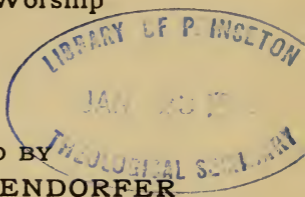
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Thy kingdom come



Thy Kingdom Come

A Book of Social Prayers for Public
and Private Worship

COMPILED BY
RALPH E. DIFFENDORFER



NEW YORK
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the United States and Canada
1914

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Contents

	PAGE
THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM.....	7
J. Ernest McAfee, Secretary, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., New York City	
PRAYER AS TAUGHT AND PRACTISED BY JESUS.....	8
Selected	
A SOCIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.....	9
F. Herbert Stead, Warden of Robert Browning Settlement, Walworth, London, S. E.	
FOR CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER.....	12
Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil	
A SOCIAL LITANY.....	13
Social Service Commission of the Diocese of Massachusetts	
RESPONSIVE INTERCESSIONS.....	15
National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association, New York City	
FOR THE GRACE OF LOVE.....	17
Chenting T. Wang, Shanghai, China	
FOR THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL SERVICE.....	18
Selected	
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	19
Queen Elizabeth's Prayer Book	
FOR STEWARDSHIP.....	20
Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, in the <i>British Weekly</i>	
FOR TRUE AND FULL DEMOCRACY.....	21
J. Ernest McAfee, Secretary, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., New York City	
FOR INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD.....	22
Sidney L. Gulick, the Doshisha, Kyoto, Japan	
FOR PEACE.....	23
Robert W. Rogers, Professor, Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J.	
FOR MAGISTRATES AND RULERS.....	24
Mornay Williams, New York City	

Contents

	PAGE
A WOMAN'S PRAYER FOR THE SOCIAL WEL- FARE	25
Helen Ring Robinson, State Senator, Denver, Colo.	
A MAN'S PRAYER FOR THE SOCIAL WEL- FARE	26
W. E. Doughty, Educational Secretary, Lay- men's Missionary Movement, New York City	
A BOY'S AND GIRL'S PRAYER	27
Hugh Hartshorne, Superintendent, Union School of Religion, New York City	
A CHILDREN'S LITANY	28
Selected	
FOR WORKINGMEN	29
Charles Stelzle, Social Engineer, New York City	
FOR CHILDREN WHO WORK	30
Mornay Williams, New York City	
FOR CHILDREN	31
Selected from <i>The Spirit of Missions</i>	
THE PRAYER OF THE IMMIGRANT	32
William P. Shriver, Superintendent, Depart- ment of Immigration, Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., New York City	
THE PRAYER OF THE FARMER	33
J. N. McDonald, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Maroa, Illinois	
THE PRAYER OF A RED MAN	34
Henry Roe Cloud, a Winnebago Indian, Winnebago, Nebraska	
THE PRAYER OF AN AMERICAN NEGRO	35
H. H. Proctor, Pastor, First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia	
THE PRAYER OF A JAPANESE	36
Katsuji Kato, Japanese Christian Student Secretary for America	
THE PRAYER OF A KOREAN	37
Ju Sam Ryang, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut	

Contents

	PAGE
THE PRAYER OF A CHINESE	38
Peng Chun Chang, Chinese Christian Student Secretary for America	
THE PRAYER OF A FILIPINO	39
Isodore Panlasiqui, Pastor, Manila, Philip- pine Islands	
THE PRAYER OF A TELUGU	40
Murari David, Telugu Pastor	
THE PRAYER OF A BURMAN	41
Shway Ba, Burmese Teacher	
FOR THE NEW INTELLECTUAL AWAKENING IN MOSLEM LANDS	42
Samuel M. Zwemer, Mission Press, Cairo, Egypt	
FOR THE AWAKENING OF INDIA	43
Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali Poet, in <i>Gitanjali</i>	
FOR AFRICA	44
Walter R. Lambuth, Bishop, Methodist Epis- copal Church, South	
FOR MEXICO	45
John W. Butler, Superintendent, Methodist Mission, Mexico City, Mexico	
FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD	46
Walter Rauschenbusch, in <i>Prayers of the Social Awakening</i>	
FOR THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	47
Archbishop Laud	
FOR THE CHURCH IN ITS COMMUNITY	48
Worth M. Tippy, Pastor, Epworth Memorial Church, Cleveland, Ohio	
FOR WORLD-WIDE WITNESS TO CHRIST	49
Hugh L. Burleson, Editorial Secretary, Do- mestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Protes- tant Episcopal Church, New York City	
FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE KINGDOM	50
Henry van Dyke, United States Minister to Holland	

Contents

	PAGE
FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL.....	51
The Manual of St. Augustine	
FOR MISSIONS.....	52
The Book of Common Prayer	
FOR MISSIONARIES.....	53
R. P. Mackay, Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Toronto, Ontario	
FOR MISSIONARY RECRUITS.....	54
Selected	
FOR RECRUITS AMONG WOMEN.....	55
Selected	
FOR A MISSIONARY MEETING.....	56
Mrs. Fred Smith Bennett, President, Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.	
THE PRAYER OF A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE.....	57
The Boston Northfield League	
FOR THE VISIBLE UNITY OF CHRISTENDOM.	58
Selected	
FOR THE UNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.....	59
The Book of Common Prayer	
GRACE BEFORE MEAT.....	60
Walter Rauschenbusch, in <i>Prayers of the Social Awakening</i>	
FOR AN ANSWER TO PRAYER.....	61
St. Chrysostom	
MEDITATION AFTER PRAYER.....	62
Selected	

The Coming of the Kingdom

THE kingdom of heaven on earth is feasible. This should be the first article of our Christian faith. And our faith should be for us verily "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The Christian should leave to others a monopoly of pessimism. However much pessimists may doubt, the Christian should be sure that the kingdom of heaven is to be realized here,—progressively realized, realized better the day after to-morrow than to-morrow,—yet it is to be realized, and the Christian is never to surrender his hope nor to give over his effort. Our impotence comes of our doubts, and they are unworthy of us. How are these social iniquities, and misfittings, and overreachings, and shortcomings, jealousy and evil cunning, the carelessness of the opulent and the insane distress of the down-trodden, the vice of the incorrigible and the irresponsible waywardness of the unthinking—how are all these to be submerged or banished or abolished? That is for us to find out. Above all must we never lose confidence in the divine intention. We must never minimize prayer. We must never lack the bravery of communion with the divine counsels. No task is too great and no confusion is utterly bewildering to those who maintain pure and true and strong the courage of prayer.

Prayer as Taught and Practised by Jesus

- H**IS prayer before temptation.—Luke iii. 21; iv. 1-13.
- His prayer before appointing the Twelve.—Luke vi. 12-16.
- His prayer before the Sermon on the Mount.—Luke vi. 12, 17-49.
- His practise of common prayer.—Luke iv. 16-32; Mark i. 21, 22.
- His teaching as to the manner of prayer.—Matt. vi. 5-8.
- His teaching as to the matter of prayer.—Matt. vi. 9-15.
- His teaching as to earnestness in prayer.—Matt. vii. 7-11; Luke xi. 5-10; xviii. 1-8.
- His teaching as to the object of prayer.—Luke xi. 11-13.
- His prayer after serving the people.—Matt. xiv. 22, 23.
- His prayer before his glory was manifested.—Luke ix. 28-36.
- His story about vain prayer.—Luke xviii. 9-14.
- His prayer in sorrow.—John xi. 17-44.
- His prayer in joy.—Luke x. 17-24; Matt. xi. 25-30.
- His teaching as to the condition and power of prayer.—Matt. xviii. 19, 20; Mark xi. 22-25.
- His warning as concerning too much formal prayer.—Luke xx. 45-47; Matt. vi. 7, 8.
- His exhortation to vigilant prayer.—Luke xxi. 34-36; Matt. xxiv. 32-xxv. 13.
- His promises to the prayerful.—John xiv. 12-17; xv. 7-10; xvi. 23, 24.
- His prayer for all Christians.—John xvii.
- His prayer for himself.—Matt. xxvi. 36-44.
- His prayers from the cross.—Luke xxiii. 34, 46.

A Social Interpretation of the Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN
HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.

May all souls revere thee.
Thou art more than all the world.
Help us to honor thee with our trust
and with all that we are, and do, and
bear.

May our first thoughts every day be thine.
May all social worship be real and up-
lifting.

Add followers to our fellowship.
"May more of reverence in us dwell."

THY KINGDOM COME.

Thy kingdom is the society of souls
whose law and life are love, wherein
thou art Father, thy Son is Lord,
and all men are brothers through the
fellowship of thy Spirit. It is right-
eousness, peace, and joy.

Be thou King over us. Control, direct,
command us.

Grant us conscious fellowship with thee
in all we do and say.

May we find fellowship with thee in
every sphere of common life: our
home, our circle of friends, our
church, our town, our country, and
the world.

**THY WILL BE DONE, AS IN
HEAVEN, SO ON EARTH.**

Help us to prove what is thy good and
well-pleasing and perfect will.
Help us to do thy will in our work.

A Social Interpretation of the Lord's Prayer—Continued

Help us to bring as much of heaven as we can into home, and workshop, and wherever we meet with other people. May love cast out selfishness. May fear give place to trust, lying to truth, greed to generosity, vice to purity, drunkenness to self-control, gambling to true sport, impatience to fortitude, ill temper to gentleness.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

Give steady work to the workless.
Raise the wages that are too low.
Shorten the hours that are too long.
Relieve the hungry children, the underfed and overworked women.
Bring help and reverence to the aged poor.
End the curse of sweating and of starvation wages.
May the poor have breathing space.
Give homes to the homeless and to the overcrowded.
Create among us a social providence which shall so distribute thy bounty that all may have enough.

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.

Grant us grace to forgive every trespass. Bless thou those who owe us most and love us least.
Help us to love our enemies and to do good to them that hate us.
May the power of thy peace quench hate between parties, feud between classes, ill will between nations.

A Social Interpretation of the Lord's Prayer—Continued

May neighborliness be stronger than party or class, and humanity than nationality.

May law displace war. Render effective the tribunal established at The Hague for the settlement of disputes between the nations.

Take away our sins.

AND BRING US NOT INTO TEMP-
TATION.

Guide us continually.

Let us know that thou art guiding us.

Help us to trust thy guidance most when we understand it least.

BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL.

From coldness of heart to God and man; from distrust; from anxiety, which is atheism; from anger, evil-speaking, ill will toward any; from greed; from impurity; from drunkenness; from gambling; from self-will in all its forms: and from those faults to which we are most inclined.

For Confidence in Prayer

HORD, our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenants and promises for those that love thee with their whole heart; who art the Life of all, the Help of those that flee unto thee, the Hope of those who cry unto thee; cleanse us from our sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to thy goodness,—cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto thee. Amen.

A Social Litany

O God the Father, of whom all fatherhood is named;
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Brother of all mankind;
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, dwelling in all men;
Have mercy upon us.

O Holy Trinity, wherein three are one;
Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord, our offenses, nor the offenses of our Church and nation; neither smite us for our sins;
Spare us, good Lord.

From the sins that divide us; from all class bitterness and race hatred; from forgetfulness of thee and indifference to our fellow men;
Good Lord, deliver us.

From the corruption of the franchise and of civil government; and from restraint upon the freedom of the press;
Good Lord, deliver us.

From the fear of unemployment and the evils of overwork; from the curse of child-labor and from ill-paid toil;
Good Lord, deliver us.

From the luxury that enervates; from the poverty that degrades;
Good Lord, deliver us.

From intemperance and lust; from the greed of money, and from all that hardens our heart against thee and against our neighbor;
Good Lord, deliver us.

A Social Litany—Continued

O Lord God, may it please thee to inspire thy Church with the vision of the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven to men;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to unite the inhabitants of every city, state, and nation in the bonds of peace and concord;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That thy followers may be strong to achieve industrial justice, and to bid the oppressed go free;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That all groups of workers and employers may fashion their mutual dealings according to the law of Christ, and make the welfare of the least of these his brothers their common aim;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That the great masses of humanity may rise out of base anxieties to a full measure of life's opportunity;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That the resources of the earth, which all men need, may no longer be controlled for the profit of a few;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That Christ's command, "That ye love one another; even as I have loved you," may enter our lives with power;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, who hast made thine own the cause of all who suffer wrong;

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;

Grant us thy peace.

Responsive Intercessions

NOR ail whom thou hast summoned to labor in thy vineyard, for all who teach them how the fruit is garnered, for all who seek for workers in white harvest fields, for all who bring thee of thine own, and all who withhold still the answer to thy glorious summons to serve thee night and day,

We intercede before thy throne, Spirit of Love.

For all who press along the paths of truth, who seek for wisdom and would know thy laws, who dare to probe the mystery of the universe, yet challenge every phase of truth or call it false, for all who long for freedom and the better way, yet strive half-hearted or with flagging will, for those who question and for those who find,

We intercede before thy throne, Spirit of Love.

For all who are among the cities' thronging multitudes, who dwell in comfort and know no ceaseless struggle for their daily bread, for those who bear the burden of the world's long days, for all borne down with bitter grief or anguished sorrow, for all who find thy radiant joy along the way, for all who serve the aged or the sick, for all who guide the footsteps of thy little ones,

We intercede before thy throne, Spirit of Love.

For all who toil before the dawn and tarry working till the night is spent, for all deprived the right of play, who break beneath the load they cannot bear, for all who come from distant nations to our gates and grope in baffled weariness before

Responsive Intercessions—Continued

our curious speech and stranger ways, for all the unbefriended set in peril's path,

We intercede before thy throne, Spirit of Love.

For all who dwell apart and long for comradeship, for all who face the sharp temptations of their loneliness, for all discouraged by the common round of petty drudgery, for all who glory in the power to share thy gifts of joy, of knowledge, and of growing life,

We intercede before thy throne, Spirit of Love.

For all in distant lands whose ears have never heard the story of the Savior's love, for all bound down by custom's cruel chain, for all sunk deep in dark despair, for all who crouch in darkness and the prison-house of sin, for all who cling to falsehood and to deadening fear, for all who grope their way in new and untried paths, for all who bring good tidings and release,

We intercede before thy throne, Spirit of Love.

For the Grace of Love

OUR Heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy great love in giving us thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. By his life of good-will and helpful service to mankind, he has shown to us that thou art our common loving Father and that we are thy children, and that as children of the same Father we should love and help one another. We thank thee that thy gospel of love has drawn men of all nations, tribes, and classes throughout the world closer than ever before.

We pray thee that thou wilt deepen our love for thee and mankind. Help us to realize our opportunity to manifest thy love by our loving service to one another. May we seek diligently to fulfil thy holy purpose that all men should come to know and love thee and have love one for the other. Forgive us our selfishness and hard-heartedness and wash us clean with the blood of our dear Savior, who has come that we may have life, and may have it abundantly. We ask all these things in his name. Amen.

For the Spirit of Social Service

JESUS, our Master and our Friend, who claimest our service through the needs of our neighbors, grant us so to see thine image in all our fellow creatures that in serving them we may minister to thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

FROM loss of faith, from bitterness of spirit, from cynicism and contempt, save us, O God. To all those who are striving to rouse the apathetic, or struggling against prejudice and opposition, whether in success or in failure, grant boldness and humility, patience and zeal, and the joy of thy Holy Spirit of righteousness and truth. Amen.

For Social Justice

HORD, who with thy liberal and bountiful hand providest enough for all mankind, whose gifts are by goodness and free favor made common to all men, while we by our covetousness and distrust have made them private and peculiar, correct thou the thing which our iniquity hath put out of order, and let thy goodness supply that which our niggardliness hath plucked away. O Fountain of all good things, wash thou away these so sundry, so manifold, and so great miseries, with one drop of the water of thy mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord. Amen.

For Stewardship

O LORD, our merciful Father, we thank thee that thou, the living God, mayst become our sure trust, and that, relying on thee, we are building on no uncertain foundation, and shall be sure to have from thee richly all things to enjoy. Help us, we pray thee, more and more to turn our hearts and thoughts from creatures if they conflict with our supreme dependence upon thee, and to turn ourselves wholly to our God. Building on thee, may we lay up in store for ourselves a good foundation, and lay hold on eternal life. Help us day by day to maintain good works for necessary uses. Guide us by thy counsel, preserve us from all error and from all wandering of heart and will, rebellion against thy providence, dissatisfaction with our condition, hankering after perishable things which belong to others, reliance on perishable things which are entrusted to us. May we more and more feel that in regard to everything, both material and spiritual, which enriches and gladdens our lives and hearts we are stewards and not owners; and so may use all things,—sorrows, joys, gains, losses, work, rest, and all that Thou dost send us,—for their highest purpose, that by our stewardship we may be led nearer to thyself. Amen.

For True and Full Democracy

NOR rule of the people we bless thee,
O God; for sovereignty of equals
and for equal lot in justice, oppor-
tunity, and unselfish ministries; for
sincere mind to think of neighbors' weal,
to wish all good to fellow countrymen and
to the common citizenry of earth in every
land and race; for heritage of democracy,
to show the will of God in humanity's de-
sire, which bids acclaim no mere man lord,
bids hearken to the voice of God in rea-
soned mandate of the whole people; for
measured equity which yields no place to
iron autocrat and capricious potentate, nor
flings us in the broils of petty kings.

Teach us to hate all hate, to live in peace,
to work our work, and dwell content in
undestroying, indestructible industry.

Show forth in us the benign arts of
brotherhood; break down all unfraternal,
artificial, arbitrary privilege; grant us the
joy of struggle for others' gain; and estab-
lish here thy universal and imperishable
Kingdom, the commonwealth of loving
hearts and skilful hands.

Train here the universal man; expand the
nation till no zeal for narrow sovereignty
can circumscribe its bounds.

God bless a chosen people, claimed from
all the earth, and seal thy choice in beni-
sons of good to all mankind; choose us to
serve, and grant us skill to mediate and
arbitrate and quell base passions in our
own and others' breasts.

O King of love and right and holy serv-
anthood, make strong thy sway, and set it
so firm it cannot fail—the true and full
democracy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For International Brotherhood

O THOU who hast made of one blood all nations of men, help us to see the largeness and wisdom of thy ways. Thou dost love all men and dost yearn to bring them into the fulness of thine own rich life. They are all enfolded in thy plans. While we glory in the Christ whom thou hast given to us, preserve us, Heavenly Father, from spiritual arrogance and race pride. May our eyes not be dim to the goodness and truth which thou hast revealed to others. Make us more like Christ who rejoiced in the faith of the Roman centurion and praised the noble deeds of the Good Samaritan.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to the mystery revealed in Christ, and now proclaimed afresh in the contact of the races, the mystery that in thy Kingdom Gentiles are fellow heirs with the Jews, heathen nations with the Christian. May the day soon come when race pride and prejudice shall vanish from the earth and universal good-will prevail.

Forgive, O Lord, our narrowness, our selfishness, our pride, and lead us into the fulness of thine own large heart and infinite life. Make us in truth thy children, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Peace

ALMIGHTY GOD, Creator and Redeemer of all mankind, who hast set thy people apart into many nations, we beseech thee to magnify in the hearts of all men the thought of their common brotherhood in thee, and so to order the patriotism of all as to increase the love of each for other.

Move the hearts of rulers, so far as in them lies, to spare their several peoples the misery of war; and help the people who acknowledge their authority to lay aside all hate and jealousy of other nations, and to give heed to counsels of friendliness and prudence.

Give thy grace and heavenly benediction to all agencies that strive after peace among the nations. Hasten the day when war shall be no more; nor the widow and orphan of soldier or sailor go about the streets, and the labor of the husbandman be set at naught. Bring speedily the hour when men everywhere shall sing praises unto thy name, giving thanks that the Prince of Peace hath come to reign forever and ever.

Hear us, O God, in the name and for the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, both now and forever. Amen.

For Magistrates and Rulers

O GOD, who art the Ruler of rulers; who dost guide and control not alone worlds and systems of worlds, but men and nations; who art the Author of law and the Lover of men, grant, we beseech thee, unto all magistrates, administrators, and office-bearers among the people, not only to worship thy name and reverence thy power, but also worthily to imitate thy character, that they may bear rule and exercise authority with an eye single to the good of the community and the welfare of all men. May they neither seek nor hold office for the gratification of personal ambition, nor for the attainment of personal wealth, but for the opportunity of serving others. Make them alike indifferent to the applause of the multitude and to the favors of the rich and powerful. May they be just to all men, defenders of the right, helpers of the weak, comforters of the sorrowing, and uplifters of the fallen.

And, we beseech thee, O God, that thou wouldst inspire all those who make laws and ordinances, that, as by thy Spirit, order was brought out of chaos, and light out of darkness, and life by light, so, amid the noise and confusion and strife of the mine, the factory, the market-place, and the street, there may come forth the vision of the City Beautiful and of the people that doeth righteousness.

And to thy name be glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Woman's Prayer for the Social Welfare

O GOD, our Father, our souls are made sick by the sight of hunger and want and nakedness; of little children bearing on their bent backs the burden of the world's work; of motherhood drawn under the grinding wheels of modern industry; and of overburdened manhood, with empty hands, stumbling and falling.

Help us to understand that it is not thy purpose to do away with life's struggle, but that thou desirest us to make the conditions of that struggle just and its results fair.

Enable us to know that we may bring this to pass only through love and sympathy and understanding; only as we realize that all are alike thy children—the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the fortunate and the unfortunate. And so, our Father, give us an ever-truer sense of human sisterhood; that with patience and steadfastness we may do our part in ending the injustice that is in the land, so that all may rejoice in the fruits of their toil and be glad in thy sunshine.

Keep us in hope and courage even amid the vastness of the undertaking and the slowness of the progress, and sustain us with the knowledge that our times are in thy hand. Amen.

A Man's Prayer for the Social Welfare

O CARPENTER of Nazareth, thou Perfect man, hear thou the prayer of the millions of men who go out to toil. Give us an unyielding purpose to do an honest day's work, to turn out a product without fault or flaw. May we go forth to long and exhausting labor with keen delight, but in it all keep us from devotion to sordid things. Save us from the deadening monotony of toil by filling our minds with thoughts of thee and our spare moments with enriching ministry. Inspire us to center all personal ideals in thee and all social ideals in the kingdom of God. When the sun goes down at night send us homeward to sweet ministry to wife and children and friends and the larger family of the community and the world.

O Man of Sorrows, whose heart is forever moved by the weariness and pain of mankind, who didst find healing for thy wounds in self-forgetting service, inspire us to increase the spiritual wealth of the world by the burdens we bear, and the wounds we heal, the suffering we prevent, the intercessions we make.

O Warrior Christ, inspire us to greet the struggle for righteousness with an intense joy, and, having fought to the end, may we remain victors on the field. All of which we ask in the name that prevails always, even the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Boy's and Girl's Prayer

O THOU who art the Father of all earth's children, we thank thee for thy never-failing care. Thou desirest that all men everywhere should be thy friends. We would be thy friends. We would bring to thee our companionships, that we may help build the great world family, which is to be thy kingdom of righteousness and peace.

Thou hast taught us to love one another, and we have not done so. We have not been helpful when our help was needed. All day our parents toil for us, and we are careless of their weariness. Our teachers tire of their burden, and we are not grateful. The great Church of Christ, into which we were born, freely offers us its fellowship and friendly counsel, and we are unmindful of our privilege. We have failed to do our humble duties. We have been thankless for that which we have received and for which we have given nothing in return.

Forgive us, O merciful Father. We are ashamed of our selfishness. Fill us with thine own great-hearted kindness. Day by day, at home, in school, on the streets, help us to enrich the lives of those with whom we live. With good-will may we lend a helping hand to all, joyfully doing our share of the work of thy kingdom.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Master and Friend. Amen.

A Children's Litany

DEAR Heavenly Father of all the children of the earth;
Have mercy upon us.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst become a child to redeem all nations;
Have mercy upon us.

That in all the families of the world parents and children may learn to have a fear and love of thy holy name;
We pray thee, dear Lord.

That a blessing may rest upon the homes of all missionaries, and that protection may be granted to all missionary fathers and mothers;
We pray thee, dear Lord.

That we may earnestly desire to bring some child, who does not understand, into the light of the Star of Bethlehem;
We pray thee, dear Lord.

That homes and hospitals which minister to the needs of children may be blessed, and their number multiplied;
We pray thee, dear Lord.

For Christian nurture, Christian homes, and Christian parents;
We thank thee, dear Lord.

For the Babe of Bethlehem in the manger, and the Christ-Child in the carpenter shop;
We thank thee, dear Lord.

For Workington

OUR Father, we pray that thou wilt give unto us the same broad sympathy toward the poor and oppressed which was so manifest in the life of Jesus Christ, thy Son, the Carpenter.

We praise thee that in the Christian world the toilers are honored and respected because of the teachings of our Lord. But we pray thee that soon there shall be a great brotherhood of all the men who toil—whether in shop or store, in factory or office, on the farm or in the school, or wherever else men are doing the world's work, as employers or employees—so that they all may be one, even as thou and thy Son Jesus are One.

May the women and the children in these homes of the workers have the comforts which make life richer and fuller. May they in body, mind, and soul be developed, so that they may have that abundant life which Jesus came to give unto all.

Give thy Church a clearer view of her task of leadership in securing greater justice for the toilers and in making their lives count for most both here and hereafter.

Help us to understand more fully those who sincerely, though often in bitterness of spirit, are fighting for justice, or even for daily bread.

Keep us from impatience with those whose plans for securing industrial justice differ from our own. Give unto us all the vision of the prophet who sees the day when all the ills of society shall be cured, but ever make us mindful of the opportunities for rendering humbler service to others, while we wait and work for the better day. Amen.

For Children Who Work

O THOU who through the childhood of thy Son, our Savior, hast taught us the sanctity of child life, we pray unto thee for the children who work. By precept and example thou hast taught us the dignity of labor and the holiness of rest; suffer us not to profane the Sabbath of childhood, that thou hast instituted for man's development, by imposing burdens on the shoulders of children which they were not intended to bear, and by making old their faces before their years. As thou hast, by thy Holy Son, set before us a little child as the type of the inheritor of the kingdom of heaven, deliver us from the awful guilt of those who, in placing stumbling-blocks before thy little ones, hang millstones about their own necks. That thou shouldst avert thy judgments, which are true and righteous altogether, we dare not ask, but we beseech thee that the time past of our lives may suffice us for our own and our nation's sin against the children, and that from henceforth we may bear uncomplainingly our own burdens, and never, for greed of gain or weariness of life, shift them to shoulders younger and weaker than our own. And this we ask in the name and for the sake of thy Holy Child, Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

For Children

WE thank thee, O Lord,
For the sweet and silent years of
the holy Childhood.

For the light and gladness
brought into the world by little children.

For thy servants who, by word and good
example, are protecting and guiding thy
lambs in the dark and waste places.

For Christian nurture, Christian homes,
and Christian parents, which are the gifts
of the Christ-Child to our nation; the
strength of its life and the hope of its
future.

For thine assurance that inasmuch as we
have done it unto the least of thy little
ones, we have done it unto thee.

For the growing interest and coöperation
of the children of the Church in the up-
building of the world-wide Kingdom.

May it please Thee,

To guard and protect the innocence of
children, and by their example to win men
and women to a worthier life.

To purify the life of the family and direct
parents in their sacred task, that children
may have a fear and love of thy holy name.

To bring to the mothers of the world the
knowledge which alone can sanctify their
joy and soothe their sorrow.

The Prayer of the Immigrant

O GOD, the Father of us humble folk, we need thy care. We are far from home, we are strangers and there is none to help us. The tedious voyage, the anxiety of entrance, the confusion, the shrill commanding voices have left us sore distraught. Our women and children are weary with waiting; they crave a home and a place to rest. But thou, our God, hast quickened in our hearts this hope, this eager yearning for a better land, for fairer pay for the labor of our hands, for freedom, and for life. Sustain us. Speak to us, we beseech thee, through human lips that voice thy sympathy and loving care. Send us friends who shall surround us with thy protecting arm. Be tender toward those whom we have left behind, our loved ones too old to risk the unknown; the excluded, unfitted by adversity to endure the test. So hearten us that with cheerful mien we may give our best to the land of our adoption. And through all the trials and uncertainties of our new life, may we not lose our religious heritage, but endure patiently, and strive manfully, in the thought of him who suffered and died that we might live. Amen.

The Prayer of the Farmer

O GOD, our Father, who madest earth and heaven and givest the day for toil and the night for rest, and providest thy children with daily bread, we bless thy holy name.

We thank thee for the earth that bringeth forth in its seasons. Thine are the fields and the flocks and the cattle on a thousand hills. We thank thee for the beauty and delight of each hour; for the yielding touch of the soft earth and the unyielding strength of the firm oak; for the comradeship of thy creatures, great and small; for the music of running waters; for the miracle of seed and the wonder of blossom. We thank thee for the fellowship and interdependence of neighbors; for the quickening of daily prayer and the joy of human love. Above all, we thank thee for the Bible, for the Church, and for thy crowning gift, Jesus Christ, who by his Spirit dwelleth in the hearts of us humble folk and exalteth us to be heirs with him and coworkers with thee.

Grant to us the neighborly spirit of kindness and forbearance. Give us the power to praise despite differences and to trust in the face of delinquencies. Teach us to desire growth, to expect change, and, forgetting not past benefits, to provide for future blessings. Bestow upon us thy grace, our Father, that we may gather thy riches without selfishness, garner them without covetousness, and distribute them as thy bounty with all joy.

Empower our souls to venture so daringly in the way of Christlikeness that the humblest child of earth, in want, error, or anguish, shall not suffer from our neglect. Grant us power to live the abundant life and build here its glory and thine. Amen.

The Prayer of a Red Man

O GREAT Spirit, Creator, from whose breath comes life for all creatures, we lift up our faces from the worship of mountains, rivers, the moon and the stars, to thee, who alone deserves honor and praise. We, who one time worshiped every living creature and made unto us images of them, now thank thee for the truth that our good is in thee alone.

Because of our error we have wandered far. Thy red children are sick. Diseases are cutting short the number of our days. We do not know how to live in the white man's house. Our men who were wont to sit in silence and give counsel to the little ones now stagger to and fro and have no reason. The fire-water of the paleface worketh like a fierce beast in them. Husband and wife are separated. Our fires are but ashes and there is desolation in our hearts. We have been despoiled of our lands. Our young men, though they may speak well the language of the paleface, have hearts strong for the evil way. Thou seest how many are groping in the darkness. Thou knowest the drunkenness, the families broken asunder, and the evils that bring us disease, pain, great sorrow, and the death that brings no relief.

O Great Spirit, deliver us now through thy strong Son, Christ, our elder Brother. Save us from ourselves. Restore our fire-sides. Give us the power to follow in the footsteps of thy Son in whom we find no strife, no war, no disease, but peace and health and joy. May we rejoice again in the blue sky, the green hillside, the murmuring brooks, the birds, and the flowers.

Lead us all into that friendship with him that lasts to-day and after the sunset of life. In his name, we ask it. Amen.

The Prayer of an American Negro

O THOU FATHER, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, hear the prayer of thy children.

Hear thou our confession. Forgive the weakness of the flesh, the feebleness of will, the neglect of opportunity, the choice of the better rather than the best.

Accept our gratitude. We thank thee for the way in which thou hast led us in these years of testing, from our ancestral home to this place of our sojourn. Though the way has often been rough, we now begin to see more clearly thy hand of love over all.

Grant our petition. Grant us grace in the sight of those into whose hands thou hast delivered us. Thou hast made the white man our teacher; grant him wisdom and us patience. We look to him as a model; grant him rectitude of example and us discriminating judgment. Thou hast made us helpers with him; grant him the spirit of unerring justice and us the spirit of unconquerable hope. We earnestly pray that through his generosity of heart under the operation of thy Spirit, and through our worth inwrought by thy grace, we may enjoy that fulness of economic, civic, social, educational, and spiritual opportunity by which we may be enabled to contribute our full share to the civilization of this land and the redemption of our brethren across the sea.

In the name of him who was the Son of man as well as the Son of God. Amen.

The Prayer of a Japanese

O GOD, the Father of all mankind, we call upon thee to manifest once more that great power wielded by thy servant, Moses, in leading thy children out of the curse of bondage into the promised land. We trust in thine unchanging purpose to lead the nations from greed and unbelief into the glory of love and faith. Japan is one of thy nations. We behold her great social needs. We see her threatened by materialism and agnosticism. We beseech thee, loving Father, that thou wouldst touch the hearts of her able leaders and kindle within them a noble yearning and true love, that they may discharge their duties in the spirit of our Master who died that others might have life and have it more abundantly.

Then, O Father, open the hearts of Christian men and women, that they may respond to thy call to the frontier of Christendom, where the love of God in Christ is needed to reconstruct a nation. Grant that strong young men and women may give their lives to the great task of saving Japan from intellectual and material arrogance, and of transforming her into thy kingdom, where faith, hope, and love reign supreme. Amen.

The Prayer of a Korean

ALMMIGHTY GOD, Giver of all good gifts and Father of all mankind, we thank thee for thy grace, mercy, and love which have been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. We thank thee, O gracious Father, for thy servants who have been brave and faithful in carrying thy message to all mankind. We rejoice that thy kingdom has been extended to all the nations of the world.

We pray for Korea, where thy Spirit has already been manifested with wonderful power. The people suffer from sin and ignorance. May thy Church in Korea be given power and wisdom to meet its task in the perplexing social conditions of to-day. May the social awakening, industrial unrest, race mingling, and the changing order of Korean society become an opportunity to spread the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. Grant us thy wisdom, O thou Help of the helpless, to meet the crisis which the people of Korea are now facing.

O God, do thou open the eyes of strong young men and young women to see the great opportunity of Christianizing the social order in Korea to-day. Open their ears to hear thy command, "Go," and the cry of the Korean people, "Come over into Korea and help us!" We ask these things for Jesus' sake and for the Koreans' sake. Amen.

The Prayer of a Chinese

GRACIOUS GOD, Giver of all good gifts and loving Father of all mankind, for China and her millions we come before thee with this petition. How great is her need of thee at this hour of transition and reformation! We see forces that are dark and ungodly surging and surrounding this newly-awakened land, foes from without and foes from within. Lift her and guide her, we do pray thee, that through all the trials and uncertainty of the present she may soon emerge a nation purged from all impurity and heralding peace and righteousness on earth.

Father, we know the task is tremendous. Grant us courage for it. We pray for guidance and strength for all those who are engaged in the regeneration of China and her people. May those who are active in the government rule with pure motives and in the spirit of service. And may those who are working directly for the coming of thy kingdom in China, missionaries and native workers alike, preach, through word and deed, with power and wisdom, that the hungry millions may find food and satisfaction in thy spiritual truth. May the day soon come, when, in bodies purified, minds enlightened, and souls purged from sin, there may be manifested the spirit of our Lord in China and throughout the world.

China calls for thy light, life, and glory, O God! Bless her and appropriate her for thy kingdom, that the name of Jesus may be glorified in China and among her people. Amen.

The Prayer of a Filipino

O GOD, thou who art the Father of all people, we beseech thee to hear us as we look to thee for help in the solution of our national problems.

We bless thee, that, through the agency of the American people, our country, confined for more than three centuries in ignorance and religious superstition, is now open to greater opportunities, and, in spite of bitter opposition, thy Word has been unfolded to us. We thank thee for the beginnings of industrial and educational development; for a government which provides public schools in which our young men and young women may fit themselves for life, for material progress such as none of our ancestors have witnessed. Yet we are full of awe, and we beseech thee that our great material prosperity unattended by spiritual and moral development may not become our national menace.

Help us, O merciful Father, to see that Christ should be the Manager of our business and the Teacher in our schools.

Hundreds among us living without God are still the victims of ignorance, vice, and misery. They know not thy laws, they reject thy Word, and misery is their home companion. O God, we thy children need thy help and leadership. May we fight as brave soldiers of thy kingdom. Give us the spirit of the Christ, so that we may elevate our people into a higher state of civilization and Christianity. This we ask in his name. Amen.

The Prayer of a Telugu

O THOU Heavenly Father! Who art full of compassion toward all thy creatures, we thank thee for thy mercies vouchsafed to us through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Bless, we pray thee, the whole body of thy servants who are separated unto thy work, and grant them daily fresh victories. Bless those who sacrifice to make known thy gospel in India as in other lands. Though we cannot repay their kindness to us, do thou repay them for it by giving them an unfaltering faith in thee and by blessing them with life, health, and all true prosperity.

O thou Father and God, who desirest that all men should be saved, look in mercy on our own India. May her people recognize the truth. May belief in their idols and in their own ceremonies, and the superstition in which they are so firmly rooted, be shattered and may it be transformed into true devotion to thee. May her people no longer listen to false and idle tales, but be willing to hear thy truth and believe it with their whole heart. Lead our men and women out of ignorance and away from false teachers who deal in charms and spells, and bring them to the light of the gospel.

Increase the zeal and earnestness of all the Christians in India. Raise up needed workers from among them. Stir them up to do faithful service for thee. Fill us with thyself, O Spirit of holiness.

Gracious Father, hear these our requests, we humbly beseech thee and grant us thy peace now and forever, through Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Prayer of a Burman

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, we praise thee for the privilege of serving thee, and yet more for the privilege of fellowship with thyself, of going into the inner chamber of thy divine presence. Lord, teach us how to pray.

Grant to our people a larger measure of faith as we look upon the work that must be accomplished before thy will is done in Burma as it is in heaven.

Save us from prejudice of race, pride of heart, selfishness, the evil habits of indulging in opium and intoxicating liquors, and of getting into debt through easy means of borrowing.

May those who are named Christians, whether government officials, leaders of the people, or in any position of life, truly represent the teachings of Jesus, especially in their dealings with other people of all nationalities.

Create in our pastors, evangelists, and young Christians, men and women, the same heart which was in Christ Jesus.

May our churches learn to support their pastors, and realize the joy of freely giving, the joy of faith, the joy of service, and the knowledge that they are doing God's will.

Grant to us, O Lord, strength that we may be able to respond to the calls of the many awakening heathen in our own land. As thou hast brought us into neighborhood, bring us into brotherhood. And the praise and honor and glory shall be unto thee forever. Amen.

For the New Intellectual Awakening in Moslem Lands

O THOU who commandest the light to shine into the darkness, shine into human hearts to reveal the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We praise thee for a new day of political liberty; of increasing social freedom and intellectual awakening throughout the Near East and India. We bless thee for the spread of thy truth through the circulation of the Bible in all Moslem lands and for the increasing number of those who are searching the Scriptures.

We pray thee especially for all Moslem students who have lost their faith in the old Islam and are drifting from their moorings. Give them anchorage on the bed rock of truth.

We pray thee that thou wouldst direct the patriotism of the Orient into channels of national reform and progress. Deliver the leaders of this movement from race hatred and prejudice, and from ingratitude and conceit.

We pray thee for all converts, inquirers, seekers, and backsliders. Send forth thy Spirit to do his perfect work. May the dawn of the new day not be delayed by our unbelief or lack of sympathy with those who are struggling toward the light. Send forth laborers prepared with hearts of compassion, minds that can sympathize, and with the tongue of the learned, to win our Moslem brothers for Christ. Fill us with a sense of responsibility, and help us to redeem this day of opportunity for his sake who said he "must work . . . while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." Amen.

For the Awakening of India

WHERE the mind is without fear and
the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments by narrow
domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depths
of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms
toward perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has
not lost its way into the dreary desert sand
of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever-widening thought and action—
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
let my country awake. Amen.

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For Africa

WE thank thee, O God, that the entrance of thy Word giveth light. May that Word have free course in the Dark Continent where the people have so long sat in the region and shadow of death.

Save the people from deadly sin and cruel savagery, from the blight of superstition, witchcraft, and immorality, from the avarice and selfish greed of unprincipled men. May withered hopes be revived, and mighty and triumphant faith in Jesus Christ be the evidence of the coming of the kingdom of righteousness and of peace.

We thank thee for the pioneers and martyrs who have laid down their lives to open a highway for the coming of the King. Bless, we pray thee, the heroic missionaries of the cross who have gone to this difficult and dangerous field in thy name; and may the cross, first laid upon the shoulders of an African, be as the shadow of a rock in a thirsty land.

Bless, we pray thee, the many faithful witnesses who have been raised up. May these native men and women be divinely guided in the establishment of homes, and schools, and an industrial and social order which shall be truly Christian. May they ever be endued with willingness to bear testimony to the wonders of divine love, with power to serve and with grace to suffer for Jesus' sake.

May they who go forth in tears, bearing precious seed, come again with rejoicing, bringing in their sheaves from a redeemed Africa, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

For Mexico

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Thou, the Father of all peoples and nations and tongues, thou, the refuge and strength of all who call upon thee in time of trouble, hear this our prayer.

In this time of sore need we have tender sympathy for our brothers in troubled Mexico. The distress of deep unrest and fratricidal strife has beset them. Their land has been laid waste and their homes have become desolate. Their sons, by thousands, have fallen on the field of battle, the cry of the widow and the orphan goes up to thee day by day. The nation has poured out its life-blood.

O Lord, we beseech thee look in infinite mercy upon their sorrows and restore quietness and rest to the land and justice and happiness to its people. Be pleased, O God, so to direct in all the affairs of that nation that leaders with true hearts and lofty ideals may come into positions of power and may they rule in righteousness for the uplifting of that oppressed people, worthy of a better heritage. May the blessings of true liberty and universal justice be theirs in full measure.

To this end we pray that every effort being put forth by the government, by individuals, or by the Churches both for the education and the evangelization of the people may have thy blessing.

May all idolatry and superstition, social unrest and wickedness, of every form disappear by the coming of the kingdom of peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Kingdom of God

O CHRIST, thou hast bidden us pray for the coming of thy Father's kingdom, in which his righteous will shall be done on earth. We have treasured thy words, but we have forgotten their meaning, and thy great hope has grown dim in thy Church. We bless thee for the inspired souls of all ages who saw afar the shining city of God, and by faith left the profit of the present to follow their vision. We rejoice that to-day the hope of these lonely hearts is becoming the clear faith of millions. Help us, O Lord, in the courage of faith to seize what has now come so near, that the glad day of God may dawn at last. As we have mastered nature that we might gain wealth, help us now to master the social relations of mankind that we may gain justice and a world of brothers. For what shall it profit our nation, if it gain numbers and riches, and lose the sense of the living God and the joy of human brotherhood?

Our Master, once more we make thy faith our prayer: "Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done on earth!"

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For the Church Universal

GRACIOUS FATHER, we humbly beseech thee to bless thy holy catholic Church, and fill it with truth and grace. Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is wanting, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, heal the breaches thereof, O thou Holy One of Israel, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

For the Church in Its Community

O CHRIST, thy Church is planted in the heart of great and mighty cities where thy children dwell in multitudes. The need of these cities taxes the power of human organization and goes beyond the reach of unawakened love.

Thy Church has vast resources for the healing of these multitudes, for the awakening of citizens, for strengthening the hands of those who would transform their communities into cities of the living God.

But we, the people of thy Church, are not aroused. We content ourselves too often with conventional and inadequate service. We do not give ourselves with passion to the movements of democracy. We have not as yet opened our hearts with generous love to our brothers from other lands who have thronged to our shores. The menace of disease, the wretchedness of poverty, the anguish of unemployment, the cry of neglected children, the shame of inefficient government trouble us, but we do not rend our hearts.

Arouse thy people, O Lord. Cause the trumpet to be sounded to thy Church. Say to her again, Lift up thy voice. Give us vision, and strengthen us that we may hearten those who are battling for the life of the people. Send us into our communities as living forces of faith and courage and coöperation. Keep before us the vision of a redeemed society in which Christ shall reveal himself in the devoted lives of his followers. We ask it in his name. Amen.

For World-wide Witness to Christ

DEAR Lord Jesus Christ, who on the mount of the ascension didst bid thy disciples to become witnesses unto thee; give us faith to receive and courage to obey thy word. May we give thy message to the men and women who labor near us and live at our side. Show us how to interpret thee to the brother of toil and to the sister of sorrow. May we witness for thee in the commonwealth where we live and for whose welfare and progress each one of us is responsible. Make us realize that our citizenship is a Christian service, and its every act a sacrament. May we strive to make thee known to the farthest corner of our land, and to every heart that hungers for strength and peace. May we proclaim thee also to the uttermost part of the earth, realizing that this is the common task and the highest privilege of all thy servants. Grant us such a vision of the great world and its need as shall make us eager sharers in speeding the work, now in our day of opportunity. Above all things lead us into godly union and concord, and teach us to find our lost unity in such work for thee and for the dying souls of men as shall bind us to the cross of a loving Savior, and in thee to one another.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

For the Extension of the Kingdom

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father in heaven, who hast so greatly loved the world that thou hast given thine only-begotten Son, the Redeemer, communicate thy love to the hearts of all believers, and revive thy Church to preach the gospel to every creature.

O thou who rulest by thy providence over land and sea, defend and guide and bless the messengers of Christ; in danger be their shield, in darkness be their hope; enrich their word and work with wisdom, joy, and power, and let them gather souls for thee in far fields white unto the harvest.

O thou who by thy Holy Spirit workest wonders in secret, open the eyes that dimly look for light to see the day-star in Christ; open the minds that seek the Unknown God to know their Heavenly Father in Christ; open the hearts that hunger for righteousness to find eternal peace in Christ. Deliver the poor prisoners of ignorance and captives of idolatry, break down the bars of error, and dispel the shadows of the ancient night; lift up the gates, and let the King of glory and the Prince of Peace come in.

Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom! Strengthen thy servants to pray and labor and wait for its appearing; forgive our little faith and the weakness of our endeavor; hasten the day when all nations shall be at peace in thee, and every land and every heart throughout the world shall bless the name of the Lord Jesus, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

For the Spread of the Gospel

O LORD, our Savior, who hast warned us that thou wilt require much of those to whom much is given; grant that we, whose lot thou hast cast in so goodly a heritage, may strive together the more abundantly by prayer, by almsgiving, and by every other appointed means, to extend to others what we so richly enjoy; and, as we have entered into the labors of other men, so to labor that in their turn other men may enter into ours, to the fulfilling of thy holy will and our everlasting salvation. Amen.

For Missions

O GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh; grant that all men everywhere may seek after thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, and add the heathen to thine inheritance. And we pray thee shortly to accomplish the number of thine elect, and to hasten thy kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Missionaries

MOST gracious and blessed God, we adore thee for thy gracious purposes for a lost world, and bless thee that thou dost permit men to share with thee in thine infinite plan of mercy and grace.

We thank thee for the prophets and apostles and martyrs, and for the noble company of disciples in all the centuries, who, endowed and inspired by thyself, laid their lives on the altar of sacrifice and service. We bless thee for the multitudes who to-day, in so many lands have entered into the fellowship of this ministry and are seeking to live the Christ-life, to publish the glad news, and to bring men everywhere to know Jesus Christ as the only Savior of mankind. Thrust forth, we pray thee, more laborers into the fields that are white unto the harvest, that all open doors may be entered speedily and that the day may soon dawn when all nations shall own him Lord.

Enrich thy missionary servants continually, we pray thee, with fresh baptisms of the Holy Ghost, that their ministry may be in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power. May they be living epistles, written by the Spirit of God, known and read of all men. So open their eyes to the riches of the glory of the inheritance in Christ that they shall endure gladly the present trial, in view of the exceeding and eternal weight of glory. May the great cloud of witnesses, the innumerable company of those who have gone before and entered into rest, be to them even now an inspiration and a joy. Make them to sing thy song, to walk in thy light, and to know thy joy and thy peace.

All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Missionary Recruits

ALMMIGHTY GOD, who hast the hearts of all men in thy keeping, and who canst turn them as the rivers of water; move the hearts of many of thy servants, who are duly qualified in body and soul, to offer themselves for the work of thy Church abroad. The fields are white to the harvest; oh send forth reapers into them. Inspire many with a fervent love for souls, and with a strong desire to tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King. Raise up both men and women who may count all things but dross for the sake of Christ. Call forth and separate to thyself many a one, as thou didst Paul and Barnabas, for this great work. O God, give thou the word, and great shall be the company of the preachers. Make thy voice to reach to the inmost soul of many. Make the love of Christ to constrain them. Breathe, by thy Holy Spirit, fresh life into our Church, and thy missionaries shall arise, an exceeding great army. O Lord, put forth thy strength and come and help us. Draw forth many from amongst us. Let not the love of country nor of kindred hold any back. Let none resist thy call, and so forfeit the rich crown which thou wouldst that they should win. Hear us for the sake of him who is the Church's Head, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

For Recruits among Women

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of the harvest, we humbly beseech thee to send forth more laborers into thy harvest, and especially to put it into the hearts of many faithful women to give themselves to thy work in the mission field; or, if they cannot go themselves, to give of their substance gladly as thou hast prospered them. And so may the bounds of thy blessed kingdom be enlarged; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Missionary Meeting

DEAR Master of us all, we gather here this day to consider one part of the great field of mission effort.

We are here in thy name and because of our love for thee. Keep us from vagueness of thought, from indirection of effort, from self-satisfaction with the gift or the service that calls for no effort or sacrifice on our part. Give us that clear vision of the need which will make it very real and immediate to us. Impress upon our hearts the urgency of the call. May we realize that, as we delay, other lives are being spent in distress, in suffering, and in absence from thee.

Make us willing to know with definiteness the needs of our community, of our great land, and of the world, that we may be stirred thereby. Help us to have courage to measure our response by the need itself. As thou gavest thy Son to a suffering world, so teach us that our lives must be freely offered in full and loving service to the neglected, the needy, to those whom the world passes by.

Send us from this place, O Father, searching for our share in thy work, and ready to serve where and how we are called.

We ask all in thy name. Amen.

The Prayer of a Group of Young People

OUR FATHER, we would yield everything to thee: our thoughts that they may be purified, our feelings that they may be sweetened, our will that it may be sanctified.

Make us worthy to express the divine life in all our relationships, and give us a vision of what this little group may do for thee.

O Lord, breathe upon us in new inspiration, that we may go forth to be more than conquerors, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

For the Visible Unity of Christendom

O GOD, who art one God, though in three persons, blessed for evermore, who hast predestined us to glorify thee in one body in thine only-begotten Son; we earnestly pray thee for the restoration of visible unity of worship and communion between the divided members of the catholic Church in the East and in the West; that all who confess thy holy name and are called Christians may be reunited, as at the beginning, in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers. Remove, we beseech thee, from us and from all others whatever may hinder or delay this blessed reunion—all suspicions, prejudices, hard thoughts, and judgments—and endue us with such ardent love toward thee and toward each other that we may be one in heart, even as thou, Lord, art one with the Father, to whom in the unity of the Holy Ghost be all praise and glory and thanksgiving forever. Amen.

For the Unity of God's People

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace; give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that as there is but one body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace before Meat

I

OUR FATHER, thou art the final source of all our comforts and to thee we render thanks for this food. But we also remember in gratitude the many men and women whose labor was necessary to produce it, and who gathered it from the land and afar from the sea for our sustenance. Grant that they too may enjoy the fruit of their labor without want, and may be bound up with us in a fellowship of thankful hearts. Amen.

II

O GOD, we thank thee for the abundance of our blessings, but we pray that our plenty may not involve want for others. Do thou satisfy the desire of every child of thine. Grant that the strength which we shall draw from this food may be put forth again for the common good, and that our life may return to humanity a full equivalent in useful work for the nourishment which we receive from the common store. Amen.

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For an Answer to Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy name thou wilt grant their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Meditation after Prayer

I

I HAVE power within me to accomplish any work which God brings to me.

II

In all work I coöperate with God and therefore cannot fail.

III

God's Spirit is filling my spirit with strength and with confidence.

IV

All fear and lack of confidence comes from my placing obstructions in the channel through which God's Spirit reaches my life. The greatest of all obstructions is self.

V

Instead of thinking of myself I will think only of pleasing God by fulfilling simply and with faith what he gives me to do.

VI

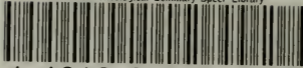
I am only an instrument in his hands to fulfil his will in me.

VII

All I need is faith and confidence and humility.



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